

# The Roman Catholic Church and the World Crisis

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**The Substance of an Address Delivered to Canadian Protestant League Meetings on Tuesday, October 6th, 1942.**

Within the limits of the time at my disposal this evening I have the choice of presenting to you either a few thoroughly developed facts, or a much larger number of facts in brief, impressionistic, fashion. Since the majority of the people of our democratic countries have been blinded to many of the true facts of the present world crisis by the servile submission of the press to the dictates of Roman Catholic power, I feel that my purpose here would be best attained by giving to you this evening, within the short period of time, as many of these unknown facts as possible.

I take this occasion to congratulate THE CANADIAN PROTESTANT LEAGUE on the lusty growth it has had since its beginning one year ago. But I wish to impress upon you the necessity of a much larger and more rapid growth if it is to serve its all-important purpose as a bulwark against the aggressions of illiberal and undemocratic forces.

The remarks I have to make to you this evening are not concerned with the Roman Catholic religion, as such, nor with the Roman Catholic people, nor with the majority of its priesthood, who know little more than you of the facts I present. My remarks are directed against the designs and activities of an international political power with its own diplomatic corps and political principles—the Vatican State.

## Rome An Opportunist

Though the political objectives of Roman Catholic policy are clearly and definitively undemocratic, none the less this institution in driving toward its ends, follows the opportunist principle of making the best of any circumstances in which it finds itself. The story is told of the married French Cardinal, Talleyrand, who was standing one day by a window, watching the people in a revolt milling about in the streets below. He remarked to one of his "hangers-on": "I see our side is winning." His satellite asked him: "Which is our side?" Talleyrand replied: "I don't know yet—it is the side that is going to win." This story is a good sample of the opportunist policy followed by the Roman Church at all times, particularly in international wars. The Roman Pontiff, who claims to be the one and only spiritual arbiter of the world, stands by in this present world-conflict, refusing to take sides with the free peoples of the world, who are fighting back against the brutal aggression of a sadist dictator; and, although the Vatican favours the Nazi-Fascist forces, who agree with its own authoritarian principles, none the less, the papacy has followers in both camps. For instance, if Nazi-Fascism should win, it has in France the Catholic Pétain and Laval, on whose support it can rely. If Nazi-Fascism loses, it can turn to General de Gaulle, head of the Fighting French. If Fascism triumphs, it has in Slovakia the priest-puppet of Hitler, Msgr. Tiso. If it loses, the Roman Catholic Church can rely upon the good offices of another of its

monseignori, who is a member of the Cabinet of the Czechoslovakian Government-in-Exile in London.

## The Birth of Liberty

In 1648 the Treaty of Westphalia gave legal birth to the policy of tolerance and democratic liberties, the fruit of the Protestant Reformation. As you well know, once men defied the overweening power of the Roman Pontiff and vindicated their own God-given right of following the dictates of their own consciences, religious liberty came into being. From this religious liberty all the liberal democratic principles of our modern world take their origin. It was the triumph of individual man over the tyranny of usurped authority. Pope Innocent X., reigning at the time of the Treaty of Westphalia, denounced and abrogated this treaty in the strongest terms perhaps ever used in a pontifical condemnation. He anathematized, for all future time, its principles of tolerance and religious liberty, and loosed from their obligation all who had sworn to uphold it.

It is interesting to note that official Nazi declarations contained in reports to *The New York Times* in April, 1940, declared that the real purpose of the present war is not the overthrowing of the principle of the Versailles Treaty, but the destruction of the principles of the Treaty of Westphalia, which, they declared, were the beginning of our present "democratic corruption." It added that it was the intention of the Nazi government at the successful conclusion of this War, to sign the treaty of peace at Westphalia to wipe out the sordid memory of the treaty signed there three hundred years ago.

## To Reestablish the Holy Roman Empire

The battle of Authoritarianism against Individualism has been carried on from the time of the Reformation by the Jesuits, the founders of the counter-Reformation. They have never ceased to long for the day when an end could be put to Protestantism and the individual liberties for which it stands. They looked forward to the re-establishment of the Holy Roman Empire, which would restore the Church to its medieval political power. In the *Memoirs* of Kaiser Wilhelm II., p. 211, we find him narrating the following conversation held at the Vatican, at the time of his last visit with Pope Leo XIII.:

"It was of interest to me that the Pope said to me on this occasion that Germany must become the sword of the Catholic church. I remarked that the old Holy Roman Empire of the German nation no longer existed, and that conditions had changed. But he stuck to his words."

What the Vatican failed to achieve through Wilhelm II., through no fault of its own, bid fair to be achieved not many years later by the rise to power of the Roman Catholic Adolf Hitler. Fritz Thyssen, Roman Catholic multi-millionaire of Germany, in his book, *I Paid Hitler*, states that he poured millions into the coffers of

Hitler to assure his election, and that the explicit purpose of reestablishing through him the Holy Roman Empire was dear to the heart of Vatican politicians.

### Our Catholic Enemies

One should not overlook the fact that the countries on the side of Hitler, fighting the world democracies, are Catholic countries, headed by Roman Catholic rulers, such as Franco in Spain, Salazar in Portugal, Mussolini in Italy, Pavelitch in Croatia, Msgr. Tiso in Slovakia, Pétain and Laval in Fascist France. In Germany itself Adolph Hitler, on the opening page of the German *Who's Who*? (*Wer Ist's?*) is listed as a Roman Catholic. Goebbels, Nazi Minister of Propaganda, is also a Catholic. So, too, are the following leaders of Nazism: Franz von Papen, ace diplomat of Nazidom; Seyss-Inquart, betrayer of Austria; Henlein, Fuehrer of Sudetenland; Burchard, and many other Nazi *gauleiters*.

In the present issue of *The Converted Catholic Magazine*, of which I am associate-editor, the exact words of Hitler, taken from his book, *Mein Kampf*, are quoted, in which he tells of the strong Roman Catholic influence on his childhood and the formation of his early ideals; of his learning anti-Semitism from the clerical mayor of Vienna; of his admiration for the organization of the Roman Catholic Church, particularly of its unyielding intolerance.

As is now well-known, the present world struggle between dictatorships and democracies began with Fascist aggression in Ethiopia, and Spain. I need not tell you the well-known fact that the Vatican gave its blessing to both of these aggregations, and brought about the defeat of the Republicans in Spain, by having Roman Catholic political pressure in the United States prevent the passing of legislation which would have allowed the sending of arms to the Loyalists.

It hardly can have escaped your attention since the opening of the present War that at no time has Hitler blamed the Roman Catholic Church for the present state of the world, which he so hysterically denounces. Neither, on the other hand, has the Roman Pontiff excommunicated Hitler, nor denounced the cause for which he stands. It was this present Pope, Pius XII., who, as Papal Nuncio to Germany, made the concordat with the Hitler dictatorship that gave it its first international diplomatic recognition, and that abolished the liberal Catholic Centre Party, the last stronghold of democracy in Germany.

### Roman Eire Helps the Reich

In the Catholic countries that are not openly siding with Hitler, facilities are offered for the attainment of Nazi objectives. An outstanding instance is Roman Catholic Ireland, which refuses even passive cooperation with democracies, and yet at the same time there are housed Nazi spy headquarters of the German Empire in Dublin, which can inform Germany of the movements and equipments of Allied troops in Northern Ireland.

### Fascist Religion

It is well known that the essence of Nazi-Fascism is intolerance, one-man rule, hatred of democracy, Jews and Freemasons. It stands to reason that the Fascist state needs a Fascist religion. Such a religion is Roman Catholicism with its principles of intolerance, certified and established by pontifical encyclicals; its one-man rule; its condemnation of democratic liberties; its denunciations of Freemasonry as "the synagogue of Satan"; its medieval anti-Semitic laws, the parallel of

the Nuremburg decrees of Hitler, which have never been formally rejected or disowned.

It may come as a surprise even to most Protestants to know that Vatican encyclicals have explicitly condemned democratic liberties. I have not time to prove in detail the truth of this statement, but I refer you to the encyclical *Mirari Vos* of Gregory XVI., in which he calls liberty of conscience "an erroneous doctrine—a delirium." He also declares in this same document that the worst plague of society is liberty of opinion and freedom of speech. His denunciations were repeated and enlarged upon by Pope Pius IX., in his encyclical *Quantum Cura* and his notorious Syllabus of Errors.

### Anti-Democratic Practices in America

The fight against our democratic liberties on the part of the Roman Catholic Church is not confined to paper denunciations, but is carried out in practice within our democratic countries. Allow me to give you just a few instances that have taken place in recent times within the confines of my own country.

### Persecution of Ex-Priests

It was only last summer when the constitutional guarantee of freedom of assembly was interfered with in the case of Dr. Lehmann, former Catholic priest, who was in a private home in Philadelphia, addressing a small gathering of people on a biblical subject. Father O'Grady of the neighbouring parish of Our Lady of Mercy, elbowed his way into the house, and demanded that the Reverend Doctor Lehmann prove that he had been a Roman Catholic priest, or else he would get Roman Catholic policemen to break up the meeting.

Outrageous violation of freedom of conscience took place in the case of Peter Doeswyck, former Roman Catholic priest, who recently came to Christ's Mission, New York, after having served for several years in the diocese of Omaha and Nebraska. On his resignation from the priesthood he was arrested the following day under false pretences, taken to the police station, and grilled for five hours on why he was leaving the priesthood, where he intended to go, what he intended to do, whether he intended to write against the Catholic Church, whether he intended to speak against the Catholic Church, and other questions of similar import. He was released only through the interference of a friend who knew that he was being detained under false pretences, and threatened publicly to expose the cause if he were not freed at once.

### Shackling of the Press

The most effective and devastating threat to democratic liberties is seen in Roman Catholic shackling of the press. There is no publishing company in the United States that will now publish an anti-Catholic book. Only three weeks ago Haldeman-Julius, publishing company of Kansas, was prevailed upon, through Catholic pressure, to discontinue the exposure of Vatican political intrigues in its series of booklets entitled, *The Black International*. A few weeks previous to that the Knights of Columbus, in convention in New York State, denounced *The New York Post* for telling of the possible implications of a leading Catholic layman, David I. Walsh, with a Nazi spy ring. It is interesting to note that Senator Walsh has not challenged the report of *The New York Post* to the extent of forcing a retraction or suing them for libel.

The entire press of the United States, with the ex-

ception of a small newspaper in Scranton, Pennsylvania, censored the fact that a Roman Catholic priest of Toronto gave money to Hans Krug, Nazi prisoner of war, who escaped from a Canadian prison camp, to buy a ticket to Detroit.

In an issue of *In Fact*, published by George Seldes, some weeks ago, it was disclosed again that Father Curran, Fascist-minded hero of Christian Fronters, forced the daily newspaper, *The Brooklyn Eagle*, a few years ago, to reverse its stand on the Spanish Revolution, to favour General Franco.

Though *The Converted Catholic Magazine* is a conservative and scholarly publication, which carefully documents all statements, it is not allowed to be sold on public news-stands anywhere in the United States because of Catholic political pressure.

What I have said of Catholic censorship of the press could be proved by a hundred other instances if time permitted. Similar proof could likewise be given of Roman Catholic influence over the radio, motion pictures, and other channels of public information.

### Romanist Designs

Roman Catholic political designs have planned a strong, vigorous, policy for the usurpation of power in our democracies. I quote from the Jesuit Father Talbot, present Editor of the Jesuit weekly, *America*, who in *The New York World* of December 14th, 1930, is quoted as follows:

"The old Protestant culture is about at the end of its rope. . . . Why cannot we raise a tidal wave that will bring Catholic culture into the United States? Why cannot we make the United States Catholic in legislation, Catholic in justice, aims, ideals?"

My dear friends, the political pressure of the Roman Catholic Church consists, not in its numbers, for in the United States out of a population of 134,000,000, it numbers only 13,000,000 adult communicants. Its power resides in the fact that it is a highly-organized minority pressure group.

### O Sleeping Giant, Awake!

The moral of all this to you is self-evident. Protestantism is a sleeping giant. It must rouse itself and organize itself into a society such as THE CANADIAN PROTESTANT LEAGUE if it is to defend the religious and political liberties to which Protestantism gave birth, and which we so dearly cherish. As individuals you are helpless: only through a large, strong, well-financed organization can you become articulate, and raise a barrier against the aggression that threatens even your immediate future.

### The Roman Catholic Church and the Press

Among the many good things which are matters of general observation, which Dr. Murphy's address emphasized, was the fact that the public press in general is cowed almost into silence by the fear of what the Roman Catholic Church can do to it. Dr. Murphy's visit to Toronto affords a striking confirmation of that fact.

From the account elsewhere, it will be seen that Dr. Murphy addressed—that is, was heard by—not less than ten thousand people Sunday and Tuesday; and we are certain that at least thirteen to fourteen thousand tried to hear him. It is not often that such floods of humanity inundate a building for a religious service. Nor is it often that a speaker, asked to give one address on a particular occasion, is required to give three in order

that the eager multitudes may hear his message. But this happened on two occasions, Sunday and Tuesday, with Dr. Murphy.

It is worthy of note also that the meetings were widely advertised, and at great expense. Large space was taken in all Toronto papers—Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, at a cost of hundreds of dollars. Surely any man or movement that, in two days, can attract a company of fourteen thousand people, and be heard by ten thousand of them, is what newspapers call "news". One might have expected that some mention of these unprecedented gatherings—we have been in Toronto nearly thirty-three years, and have never once seen or heard of anything like it—would have deserved a line or two in the press. Two of the papers in which these advertisements occurred did not even publish a word about the meetings, although their representatives were at the hall. The other paper had some little reference to it on a back page, which we were unable to find. Someone said it was there, but that it amounted to little.

Over against this, we would call attention to the fact that not so very long ago the first meeting in connection with the Roman Catholic movement known as "The Sword of the Spirit Movement" was held in what we presume would be called St. Michael's Parish Hall. Our Mr. Brown—Rev. W. Gordon Brown—who is known for his passion for accuracy, and who has the humbling habit of counting everything that is countable, reported that the meeting was attended by two hundred people. We do not know whether any money was spent in advertising it, but if so, it was not advertised conspicuously. But this little Roman Catholic meeting of two hundred people was considered deserving of large space in *The Globe and Mail*, with prominent—if we remember correctly, double-column headlines; but Protestant meetings aggregating about 13,000, or 14,000 people were utterly ignored.

The Roman Catholic Church is represented by a minority in this country, as in the United States, but an organized minority can threaten, and sometimes defeat, an unorganized majority. It is part of the function of THE CANADIAN PROTESTANT LEAGUE so to mobilize and make articulate Protestant sentiment that it will become a force to be reckoned with. We cannot soil our hands by resorting to the diabolical methods of the Papacy, but the day is not far distant when the paper that ignores the meetings of THE CANADIAN PROTESTANT LEAGUE in its news columns will cease, in any true sense, to be a disseminator of news.

Meanwhile, the thousands of people who heard Dr. Murphy will have abundant confirmation of the things he said, in the silence of Toronto papers. No doubt they were threatened in advance by the Roman Hierarchy of the dire consequences which would follow any publication of THE LEAGUE's operations. But the tide is coming in, and before very long we will have another PROTESTANT LEAGUE gathering that will crowd Maple Leaf Gardens.

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